

January 24, 1984

LB 623

Treasurer, or a State Auditor.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I think I better go on because....

SENATOR LABEDZ: I don't know the feelings of people when they go into the voting booth. I give them credit.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Labedz. Senator Labedz is opposed to giving the public the right to select somebody. She seems to make no distinction between eligibility to hold an office and winning an election. She thinks that because she doesn't have confidence in the ability of a fifteen year old to do a job and lacks confidence in the public's ability to discern that a fifteen year old couldn't do the job, that the fifteen year old, therefore, should not be allowed to even run for the job. In a race many people run, especially horseraces where several horses run but nobody expects all of them to win. But, nevertheless, even those horses they describe as nags are allowed to run. I don't see anything wrong with letting the opportunity to run be there for the younger people. Senator Labedz mentioned that some of the Pages, because of their experience here, might do a better job in the Legislature than some of us. Why even talk about experience with reference to young people when nobody talks about experience with reference to us? Before we held an office we had no experience in holding an office. But we take years in the world as a substitute. But we can see again that that does not necessarily ensure competency. I don't think the state ought to put on the books a law that bars so many people. If we were talking about putting in place a law that is going to impact on business, or schools, or all the citizens, then I wouldn't say put that to a popular vote because again you know which way it is going to go. You have a representative assembly made up of people who are supposed to be deliberative but usually who are not. But in theory that is what they are supposed to be so they make the laws. I don't think though you ought to keep anybody from the opportunity of joining that assembly. So I hope that you will vote for this amendment of mine which says, despite the few words that are there, we, in fact, do have confidence in the ability of the voters to determine who ought to represent them. Secondly, despite what our individual judgment and preference may be, those people who